

Contribution or Not?

Definition of a Contribution

A contribution is defined as any gift, subscription, loan, advance, payment or expenditure of money, goods or anything of value made for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of any individual to office. A contribution could be in monetary or non-monetary (In-Kind Contribution) and all contributions are counted towards the aggregate contribution limits that apply to the particular donor. However, there are exceptions to the definition of contribution which can be received by committees and are not counted toward their aggregate contribution limit.

Common Example of Contributions:

- A gift from an individual or any entity – cash, personal check, bank instrument or credit card. **[Entered in Section A or B]**
- Transfer of monetary or non-monetary assets by a committee to another committee. **[Entered in Section C or Section M]**
- The receipt or gift of goods, services, or anything of value given free of charge or at less than the usual charge (discount) to the recipient committee. **[Entered in Section M]**
- A loan of money made by any individual or entity other than a national or state bank in the ordinary course of business. **[Entered in Section I]**
- A written contract, promise or agreement to make a contribution.

Common Examples that are not considered contributions:

- Uncompensated services, such as legal or accounting services, provided by individuals volunteering their time to the committee.
- The payment of money by a candidate to the candidate's candidate committee. **[Entered in Section G]**
- Any unreimbursed travel expenses volunteered by an individual for his own travel on behalf of (1) a candidate in a value not exceeding \$200 with respect to any single election or (2) all party committees in a value not exceeding \$400 in a calendar year.
- A loan of money made in the ordinary course of business by a national or state bank. **[Entered in Section I]**
- A guarantee of payment on a loan by an individual is not a contribution unless the committee defaults on the loan and the guarantor makes payment in satisfaction of the obligation. **[Entered in Section I]**
- Interest paid to the committee by the committee's bank. **[Entered in Section H]**
- Any communication made by a corporation, organization or association to its members, owners, stockholders, executive or administrative personnel, or their families.
- The payment, by a party committee, political committee or an individual, of the costs of preparation, display, mailing or other distribution incurred by the

committee or individual with respect to any printed slate card, sample ballot or other printed list containing the names of three or more candidates.

- The advance of a security deposit by an individual to a telephone company, provided that the security deposit is refunded to the individual.

[Entered in Section J]

- The sale of food or beverage for use in a candidate's campaign or for use by a state central or town committee at a discount, if the charge is not less than the cost to the vendor, to the extent that the cumulative value of the discount given to or on behalf of any single candidate does not exceed two hundred dollars with respect to any single election, and on behalf of all state central and town committees does not exceed four hundred dollars in a calendar year.
- The provision of facilities, equipment, technical and managerial support, and broadcast time by a community antenna television company unless the major purpose of providing such facilities, equipment, support and time is to influence the nomination or election of a candidate, or such facilities, equipment, support and time are provided on behalf of a political party.

Common Examples of Transactions during Fund Raising Affair that are not considered contributions:

- The purchase of advertising space which clearly identifies the purchaser, in a program book for a fund-raising affair, provided the cumulative cost of purchasing such space does not exceed two hundred fifty dollars, if the purchaser is a business entity, or fifty dollars if the purchaser is an individual or political committee or another entity, in (A) any single election campaign from any single candidate or the candidate's committee, or (B) in any calendar year from any single party committee or other political committee.

[Entered in Section K3]

- The donation of any item of personal property by an individual to a committee for a fund raising-affair, including a tag sale or auction, or the purchase by an individual of any such item at such an affair, to the extent that the cumulative value donated or purchased does not exceed \$50. **[Entered in Section K2]**
- The donation of goods or services by a business entity provided that business sells the goods or services as part of its business to a committee for a fund-raising affair, including a tag sale or auction, to the extent that the cumulative value donated does not exceed \$100. **[Entered in Section K4]**
- The use of real or personal property, and the cost of invitations, food or beverages, voluntary provided by an individual to a candidate, state central or town committee, to the extent that the cumulative value does not exceed \$200 per candidate per election or does not exceed \$400 for all party committees per calendar year. **[Entered in Section K4]**
- The sale of food or beverage by a **town committee** to an individual at town fair, county fair or similar mass gathering held within the state, to the extent that the cumulative payment made by any one individual for such items does not exceed \$50. **[Entered in Section K2]**

*** Sections are on the ED-45 form, entitled, "Statement of Receipts and Expenditures"**